

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

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PRESS RELEASE

MUSEUM TO PRESENT RETROSPECTIVE OF GREAT DANISH FILM DIRECTOR CARL TH. DREYER

"Carl Th. Dreyer," a complete retrospective of works by the great Danish film director Carl Theodor Dreyer, will be shown May 14 through June 28 at The Cleveland Museum of Art, honoring this late master filmmaker on the centennial of his birth. Films will be shown on Sunday afternoons in May and June, with additional films in June on Wednesday evenings. Admission to all programs is free.

Dreyer (1889-1968) is remembered and revered for his penetrating psychological profiles, his unflinching depictions of religious persecution, and his austere, somber style. One of the revelations of this series is that Dreyer was not always dour; many of his early films are light, humorous, lyrical, and even satiric. Even his gloomiest films have resounding faith, spirituality, and mysticism, prompting some film lovers to label his work "transcendental."

Included in the retrospective are such well-known classics as **The Passion of Joan of Arc**, **Vampyr**, **Day of Wrath**, **Ordet**, and **Gertrud**--all frequently named among the best movies ever made. Lesser-known titles in the series include Dreyer's early silent films, all of his short films, and a 1945 sound feature, **Two People**, which makes its American premiere in this touring exhibition. Receiving its first Ohio showing is the original version of **The Passion of Joan of Arc**--longer than other extant versions--discovered a few years ago in Norway. The retrospective also includes Jorgen Roos' short 1966 documentary, **Carl Th. Dreyer**.

Organized by The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the series consists of archive prints from the Danish Film Museum and the British Film Institute. Unless noted, all Sunday films begin at 2:15 p.m. and all Wednesday films at 7:45 p.m., with a ten-minute intermission between feature films in double bills.

May 14 - **The President**, Denmark, 1919. B&W. Silent. Danish intertitles with live English translation. 75 min. A respected public figure in a mid-19th-century provincial town has unorthodox dealings with the illegitimate daughter he abandoned long ago.

Leaves from Satan's Book, Denmark, 1921. B&W. Silent. Danish intertitles with live English translation. 114 min. The Devil tempts man in four stories from four stages in human history.

May 21 - **The Parson's Widow**, Sweden, 1920. B&W. Silent. Swedish intertitles with live English translation. 83 min. A ribald tale, set during the 17th century, about a young divinity student who can get his own church only by marrying the previous parson's elderly widow.

Love One Another, Germany, 1922. B&W. Silent. Danish intertitles with live English translation. 84 min. A Jewish girl suffers intolerance and indignity in pre-revolutionary Russia.

May 28 - **Once Upon a Time** (incomplete), Denmark, 1922. B&W. Silent. German intertitles with live English translation. 47 min. Fairy tale about a king, a prince, and a princess. Only a fragment of the original film survives.

Michael, Germany, 1924. With Benjamin Christensen and Walter Slezak. B&W. Silent. German intertitles with live English translation. 89 min. An artist is tormented by unrequited love for his young model in this story, presumed to be based on the life of Rodin.

June 11 - **Master of the House**, Denmark, 1925. B&W. Silent. English intertitles. 97 min. A tyrannical husband is reformed in this delightful domestic satire. Preceded by Jorgen Roos' 30-min. documentary "Carl Th. Dreyer" (Denmark, 1966).

The Bride of Glomdale (incomplete), Norway, 1926. B&W. Silent. Danish intertitles with live English translation. 61 min. The son of a poor farmer seeks to marry the daughter of a rich one in this simple tale of love amid adversity.

June 14 - **The Passion of Joan of Arc**, France, 1928. With Marie Falconetti and Antonin Artaud. B&W. Silent. Danish and English intertitles. 98 min. Unforgettable rendition of the trial and death, suffering and ecstasy of the famous saint. Newly discovered, uncut version.

June 18 - **Vampyr**, Germany/France, 1932. B&W. In German without subtitles, but none needed. 70 min. Sublimely atmospheric nightmare about a young man who encounters vampirism at a strange inn.

Day of Wrath, Denmark, 1943. B&W. English subtitles. 100 min. Harrowing tale of an innocent woman accused of witchcraft during the 17th century.

June 21 - **Two People**, Sweden, 1945. B&W. No subtitles, but synopsis provided. 78

min. A wife ruins her husband's career and honor, despite her love for him.

June 25 - **Ordet**, Denmark, 1955. B&W. Subtitles. 126 min. A family torn apart by divergent Christian beliefs is further troubled when one of its members claims to be Christ.

Dreyer Shorts, Denmark, 1942-1954. B&W. Most have English subtitles. Total 76 min. All of Dreyer's short films. Program includes: "Good Mothers" (1942); "The Danish Village Church" (1947); "The Struggle Against Cancer" (1947); "They Caught the Ferry" (1948); "Thorvaldsen" (1949); "Storstrom Bridge" (1950); and "A Castle in a Castle" (1954).

June 28, 8 p.m. - **Gertrud**, Denmark, 1964. B&W. English subtitles. 115 min. Spare chronicle of a woman repeatedly disappointed in love.